A Shaynem Dank Dir Im Pupik

Goth-klezmer romps, dirges, and death wishes

for trombone quartet

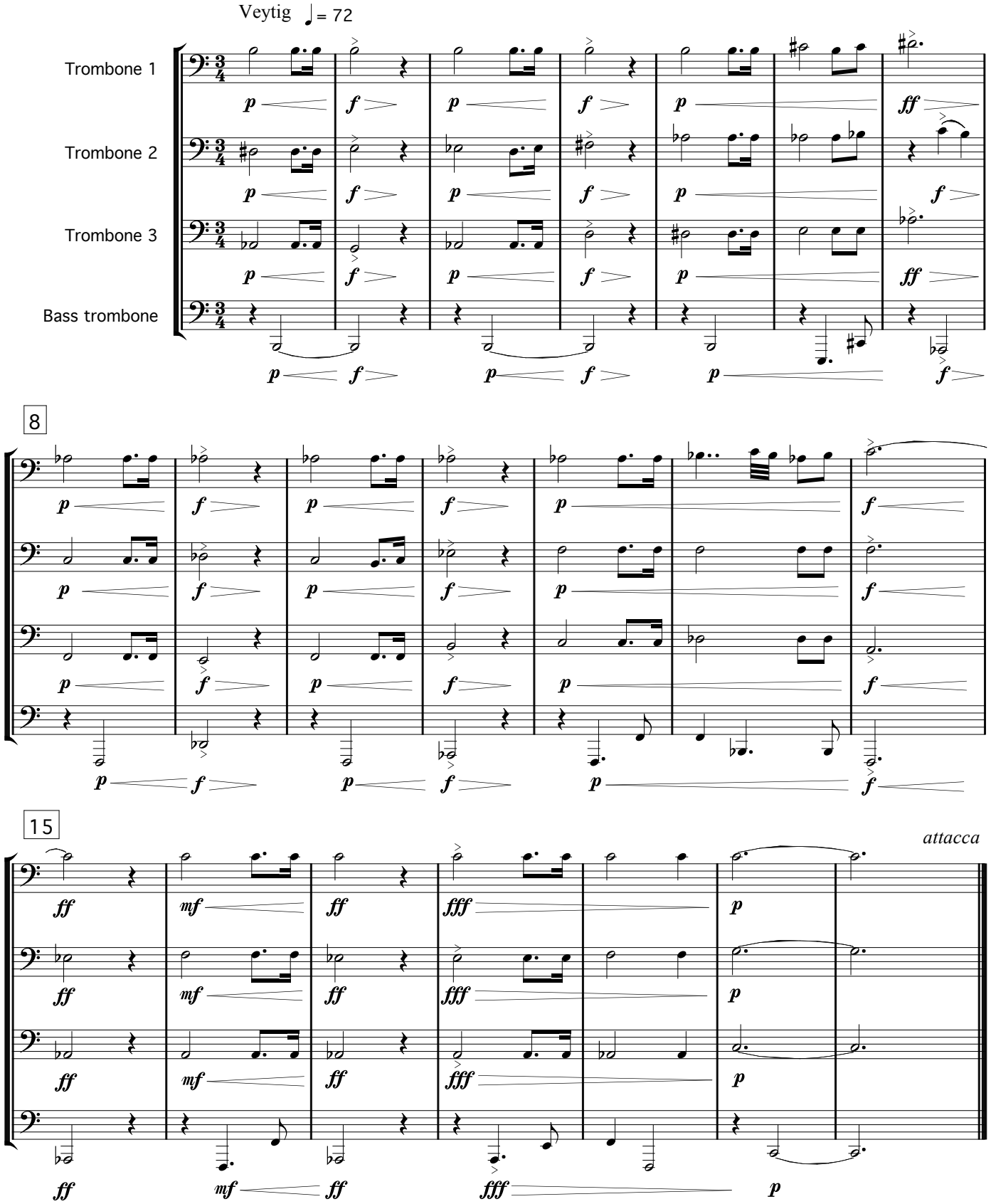
David Jason Snow

The Yiddish curse is a unique species of verbal assault that can be either profligately baroque in execution ("May you inherit a hotel with one hundred rooms and be found dead in every one!") or delivered with lethal economy ("Get killed!"). According to its rules of engagement, it never suffices to simply state the obvious: Aunt Rose doesn't merely look sick, but more tellingly, *Shaynera menchen haut me gelicht in drerd* ("They've buried nicer looking people than that"). Part of the genre's charm is to be found in the warmth of the language, in the soulfulness of Yiddish that simultaneously sharpens the insult's bite while mitigating it with a subtext of familial connection. Being the *lingua franca* of pre-WWII European Jews, Yiddish was a brickbat wielded mainly at one's own kind. Whom else could one abuse so fearlessly?

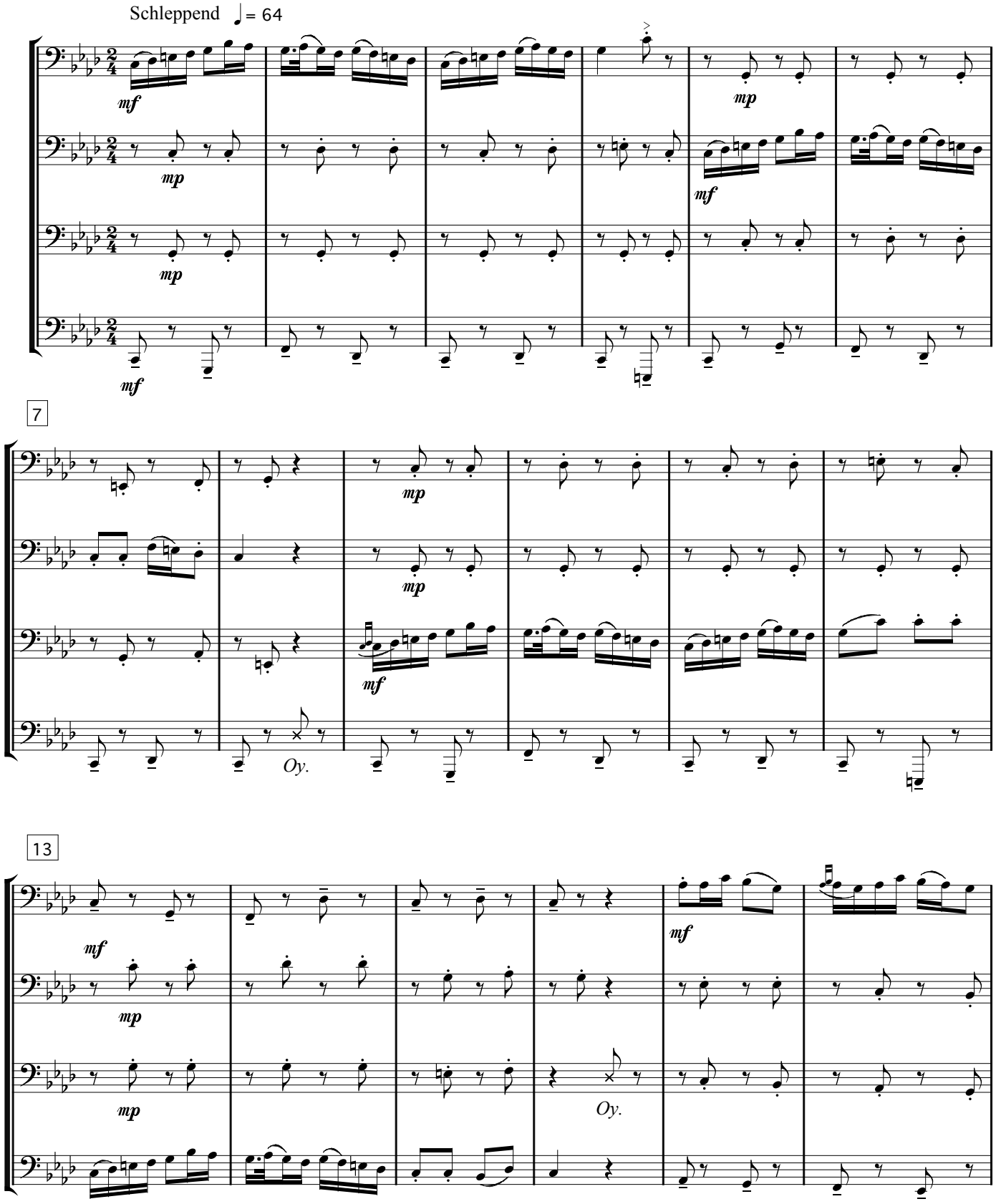
The titles of the suite's six movements constitute a sampling of popular Yiddish invective:

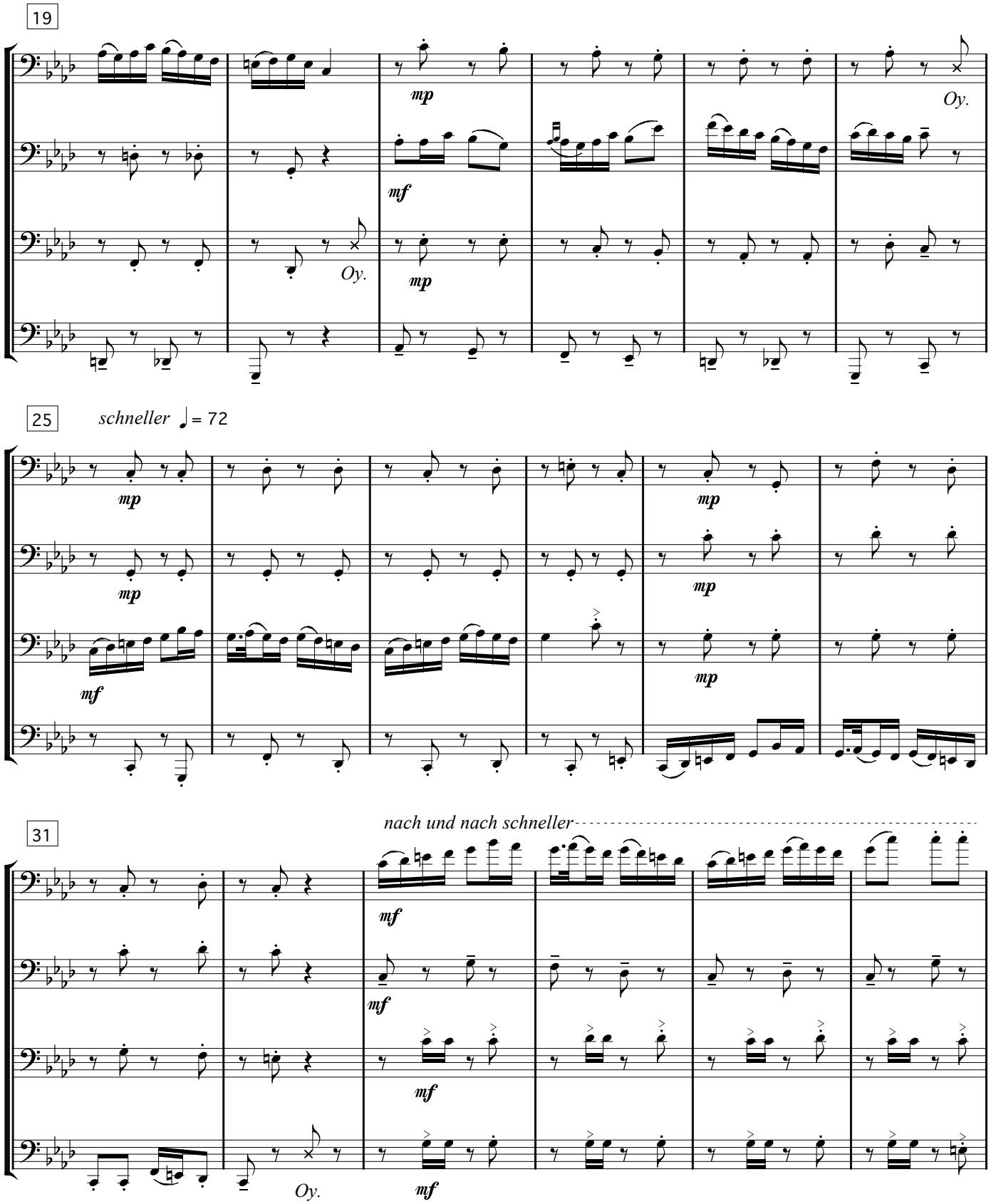
1. *A Shvarts Yor* ("You should have a miserable year")
2. *A Brokh Tsu Dayn Lebn* ("Your life should be a disaster")
3. *Zolst Ligen In Drerd* ("Drop dead")
4. *A Khalerye* ("A plague on you")
5. *Khasene Hobn Zol Er Mit Di Malekh Hamoves Tokhter* ("You should marry the daughter of the Angel of Death")
6. *Gai Kakhen Afeynam* ("Go shit in the ocean")

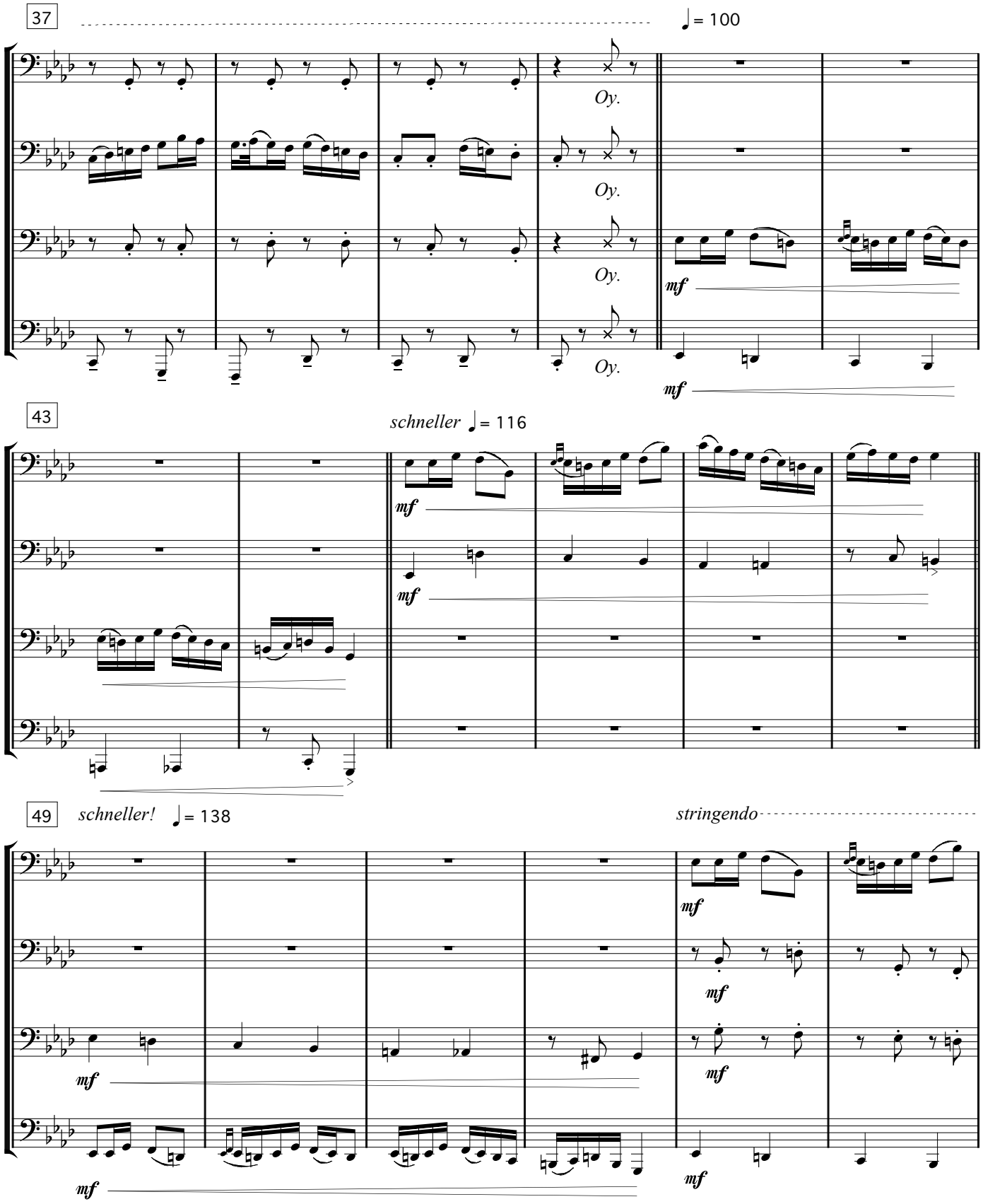
1. A Shvarts Yor

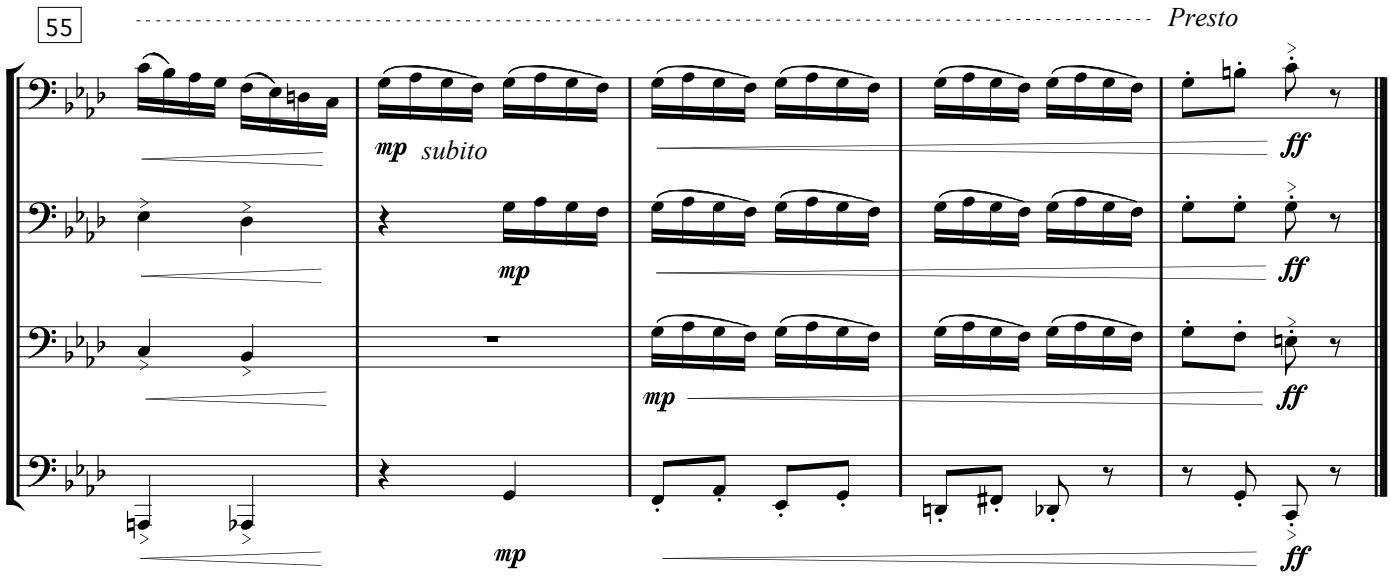


2. A Brokh Tsu Dayn Lebn

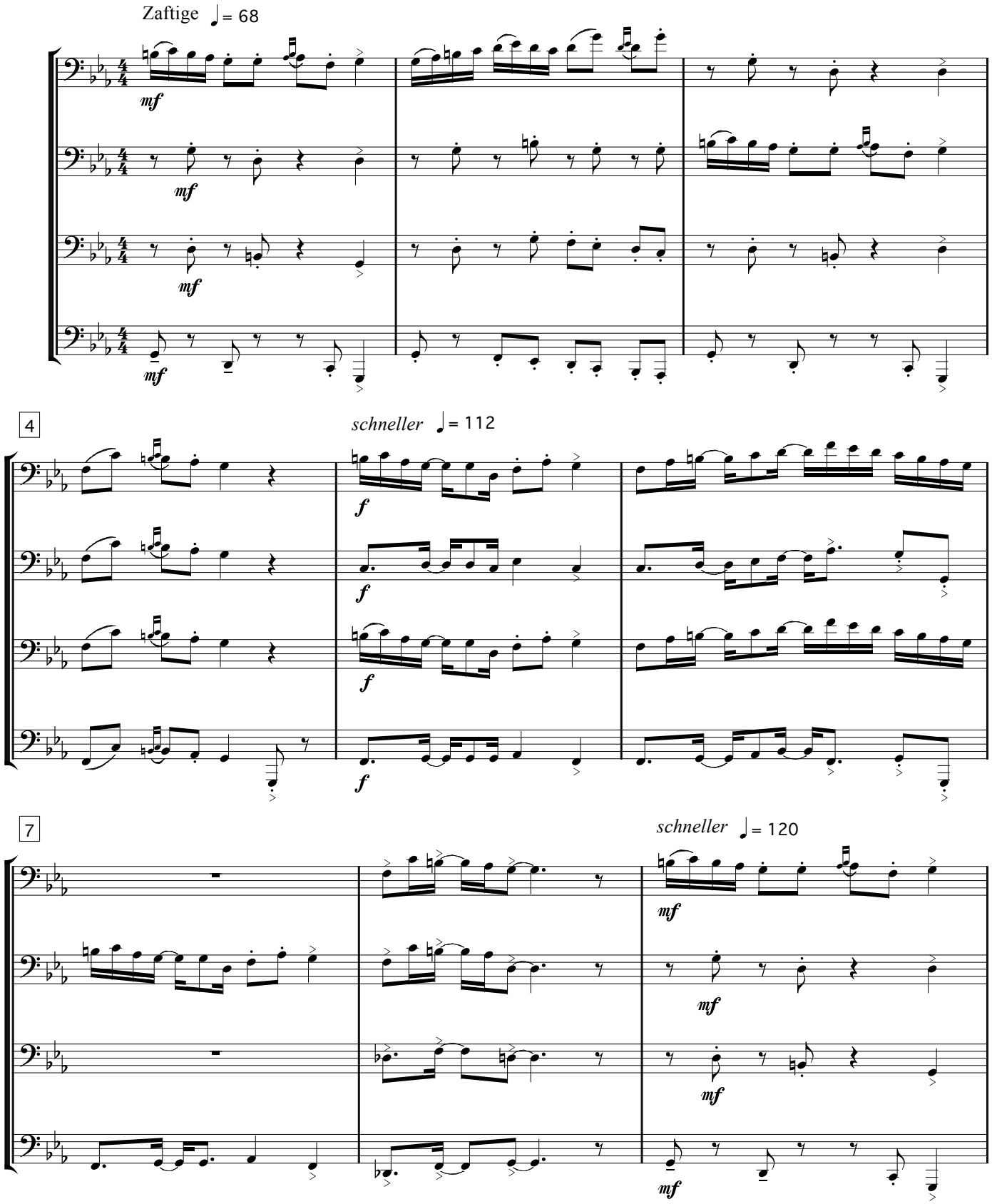


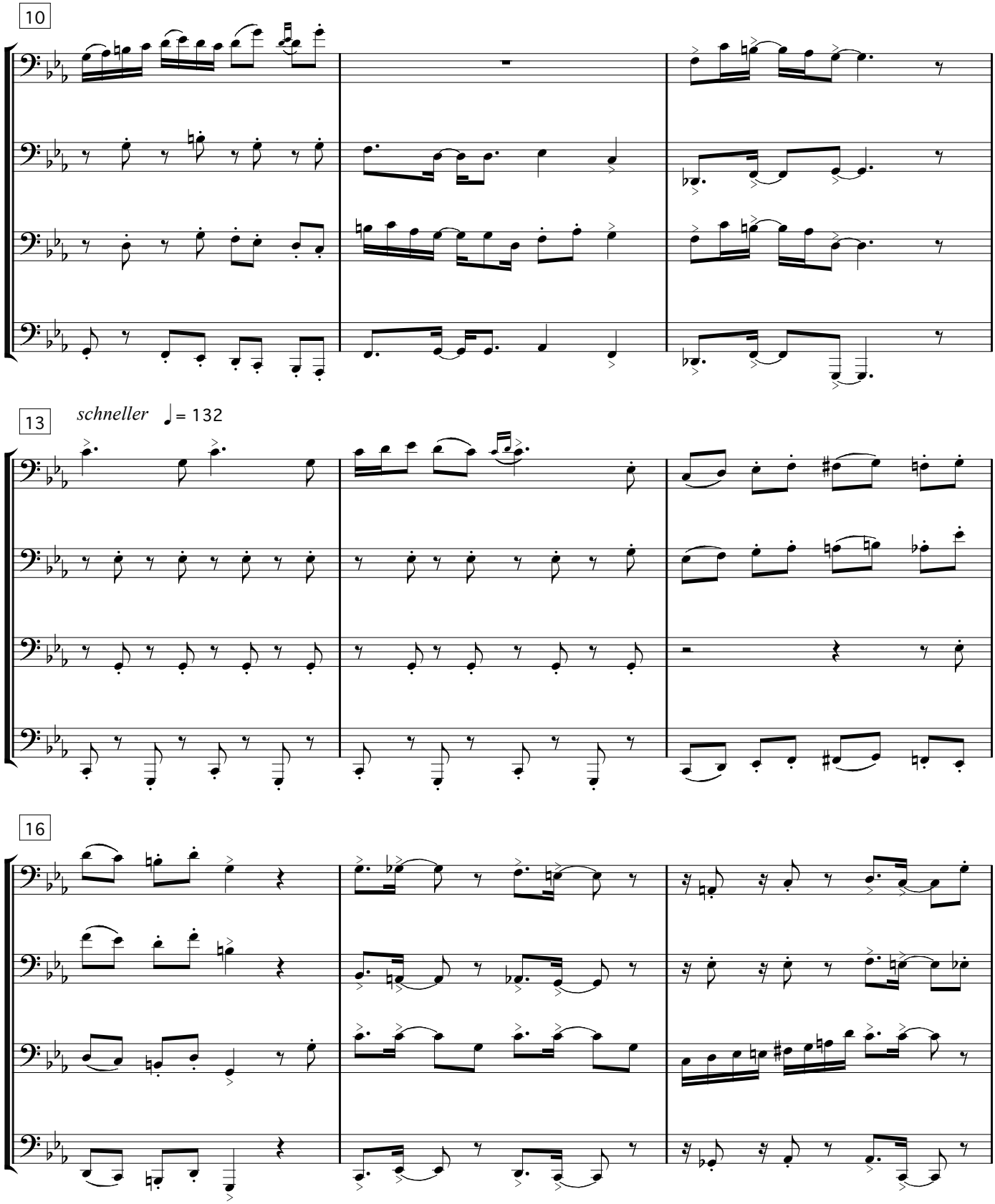

19
mp
mf
Oy.
mp
Oy.
25
schneller ♩ = 72
mp
mp
mf
mp
mp
31
nach und nach schneller
mf
mf
mf
Oy.
mf


37
♩= 100
Oy.
Oy.
Oy.
Oy.
mf
mf
43
schneller ♩= 116
mf
mf
49
schneller!
♩= 138
stringendo
mf
mf
mf
mf
mf

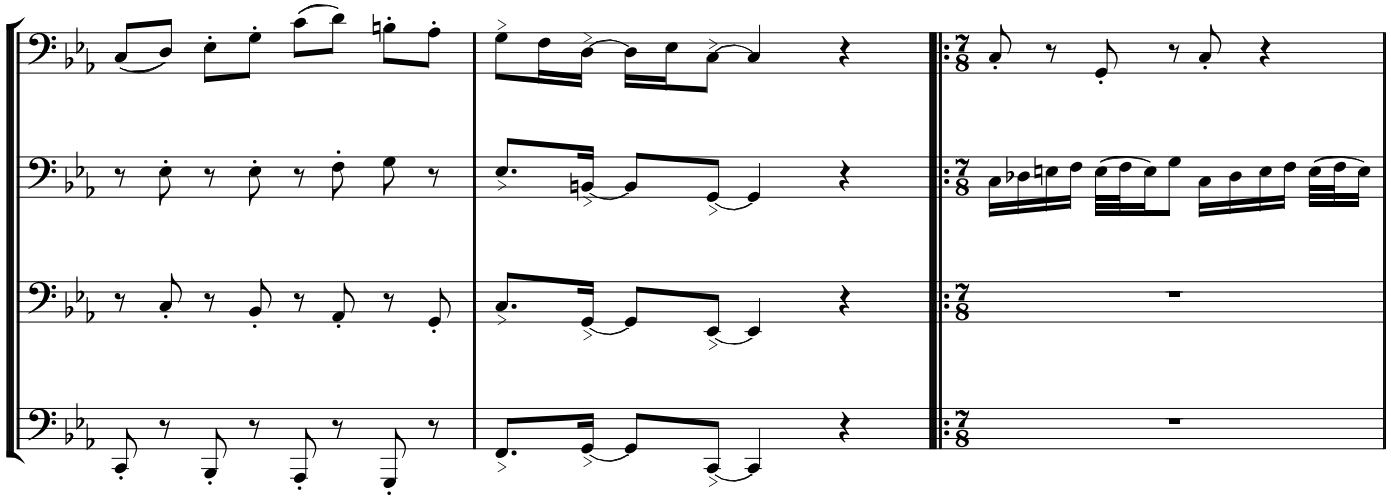

55
Presto
mp subito
mp
mp
mp
ff
ff
ff
ff

3. Zolst Ligen In Drerd



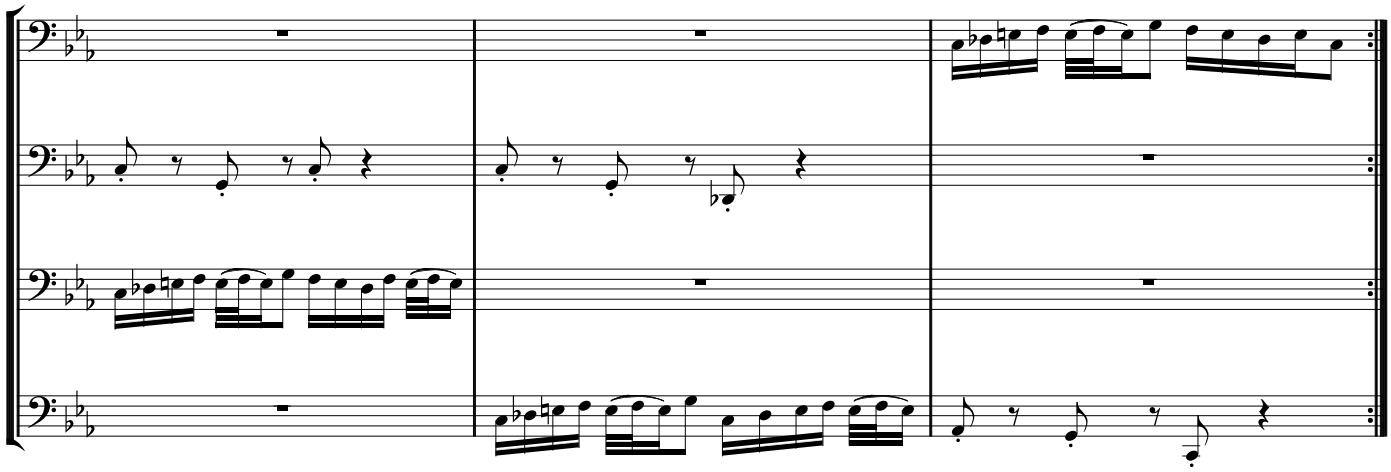

10
13
schneller
♩= 132
16

19



22

(repeat is optional)



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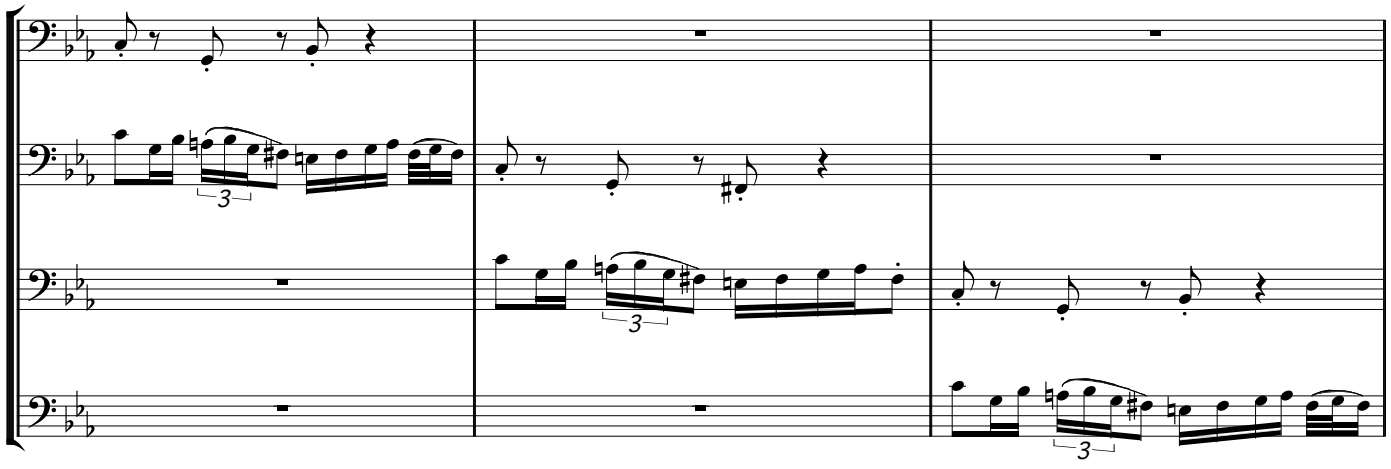
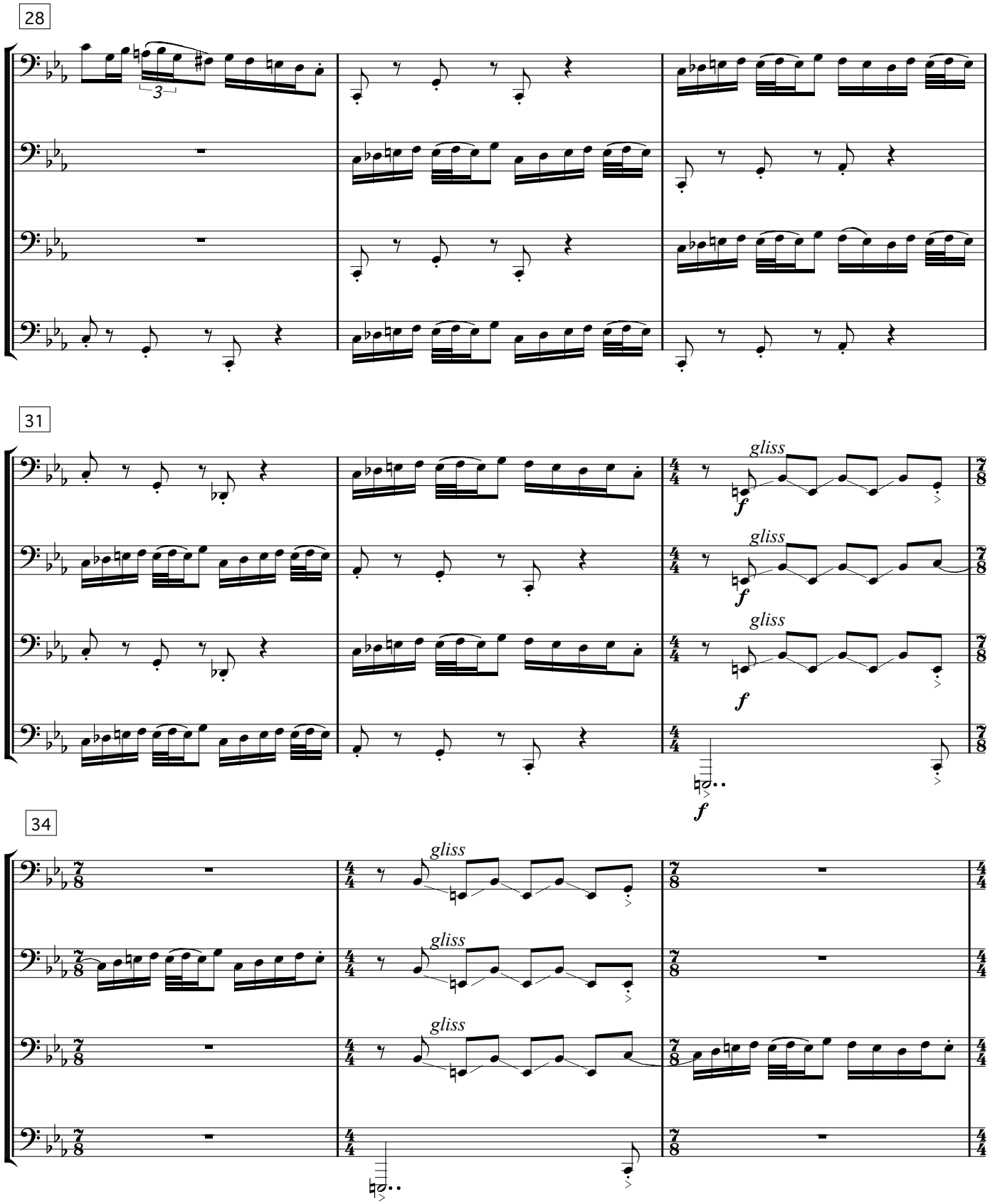
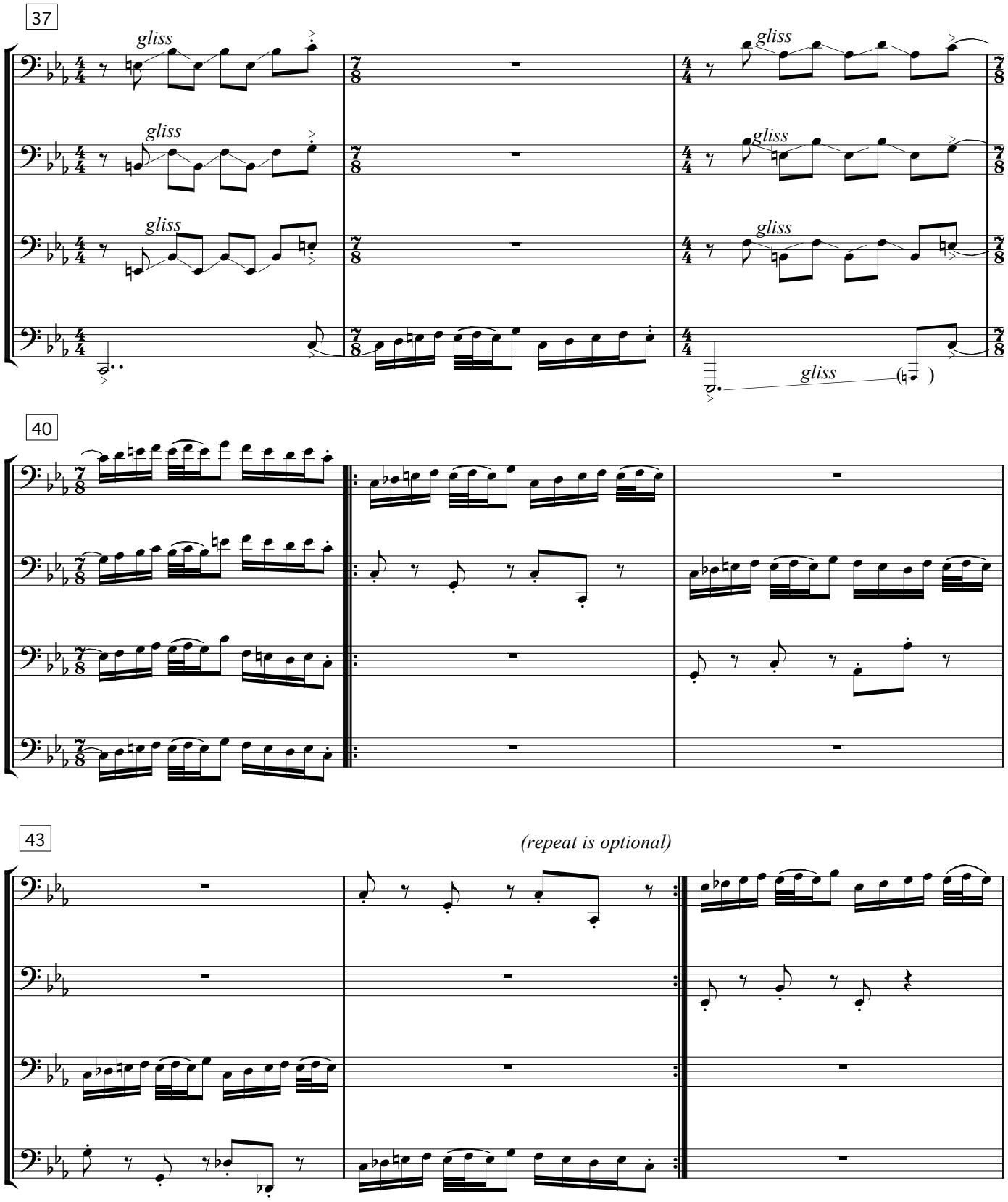
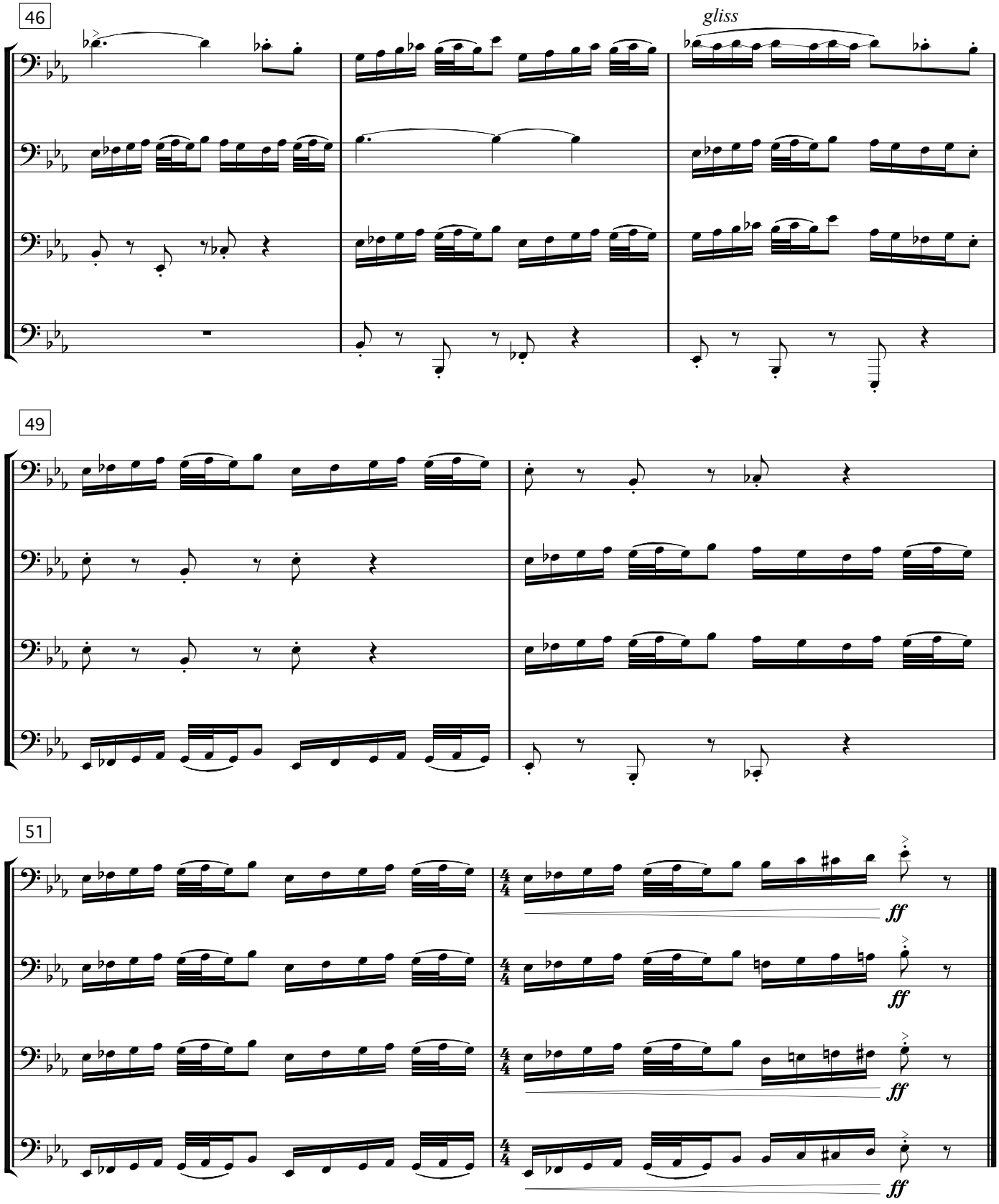
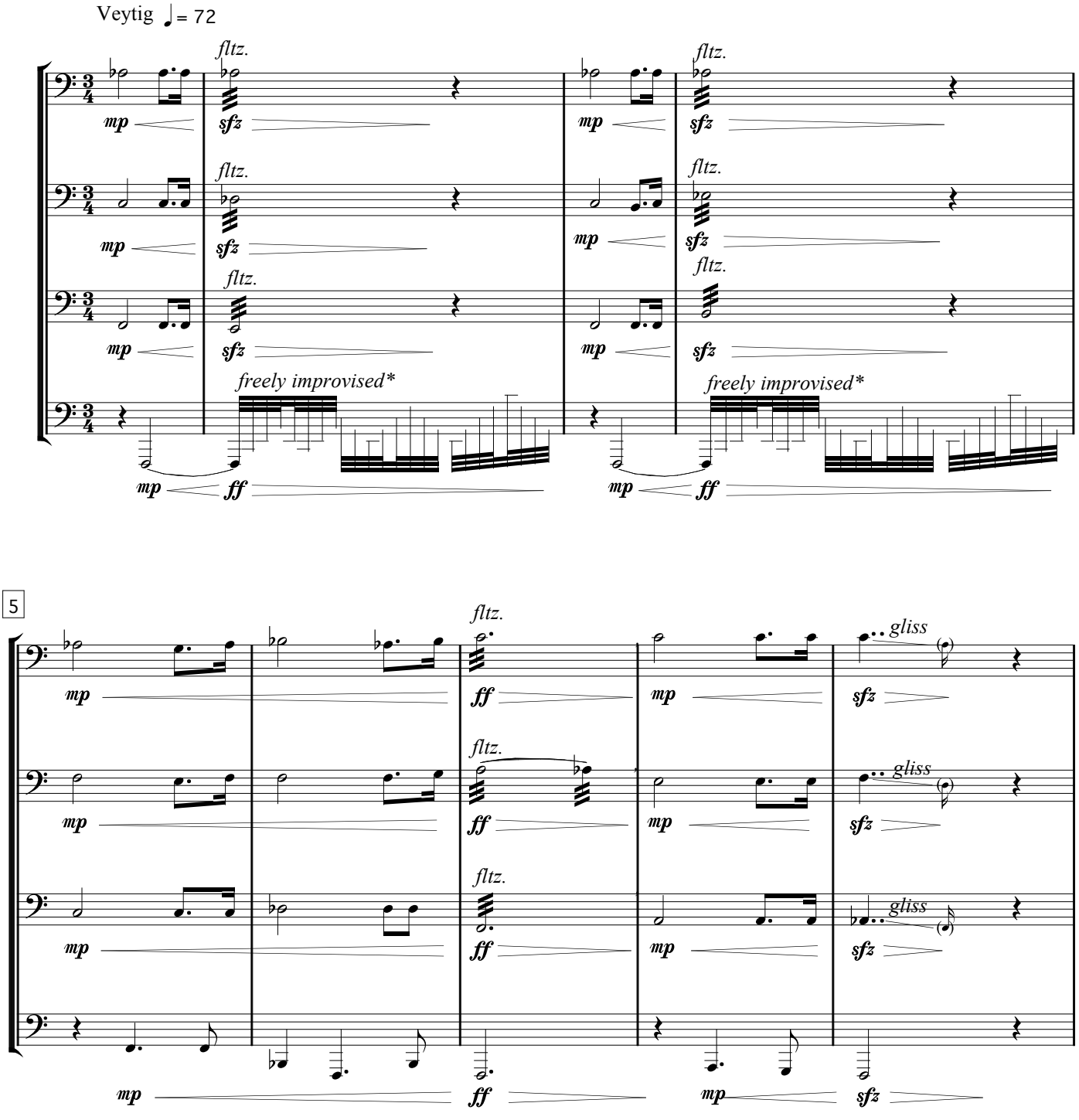



28
3
31
gliss
f
34

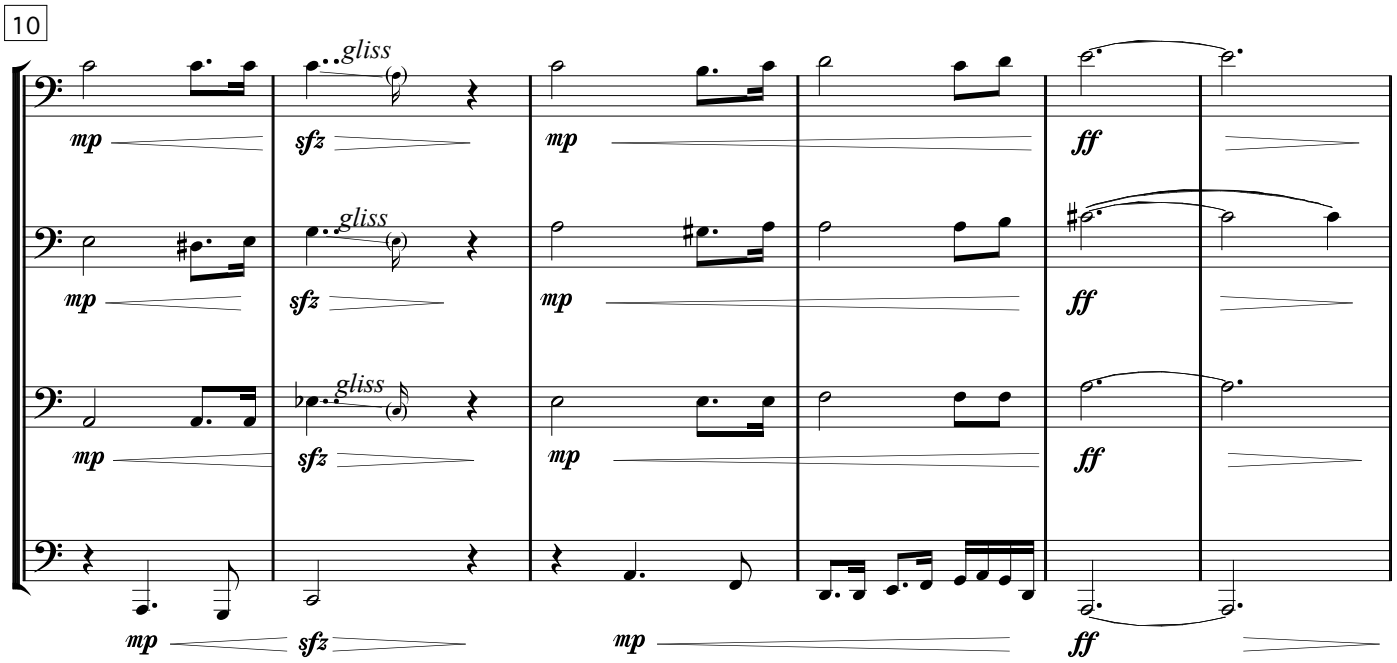

37
gliss
gliss
gliss
gliss
gliss
gliss
gliss
gliss
40
43
(repeat is optional)

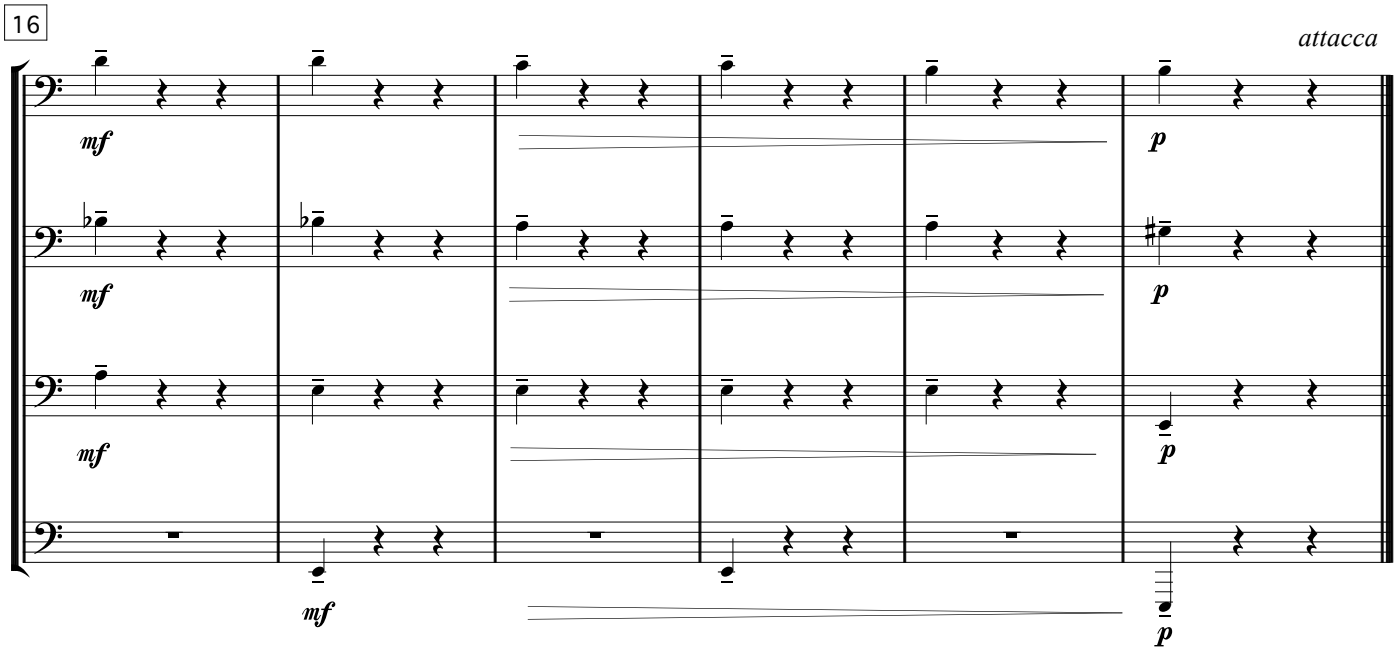

46
gliss
49
51
ff
ff
ff
ff

4. A Khalerye

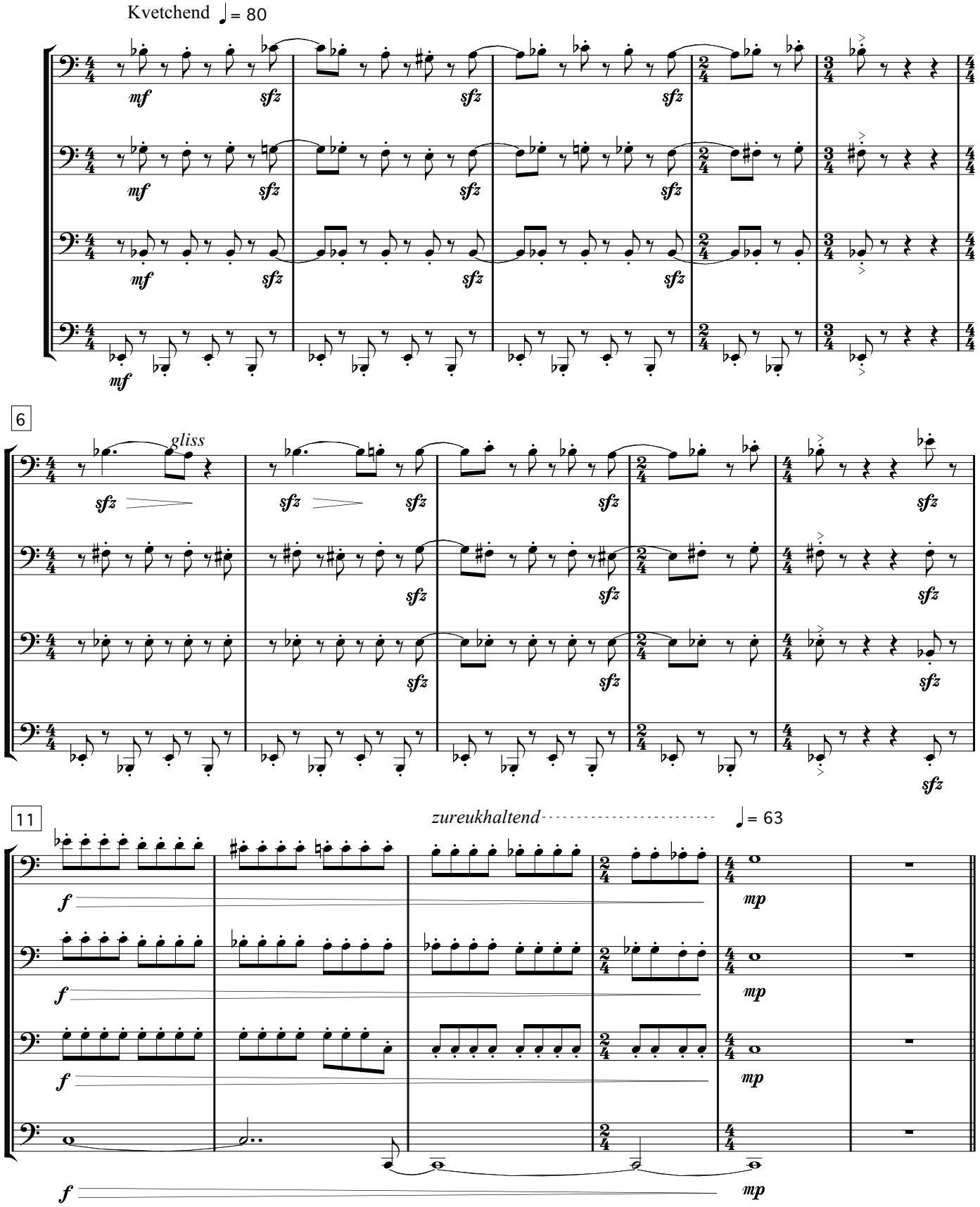


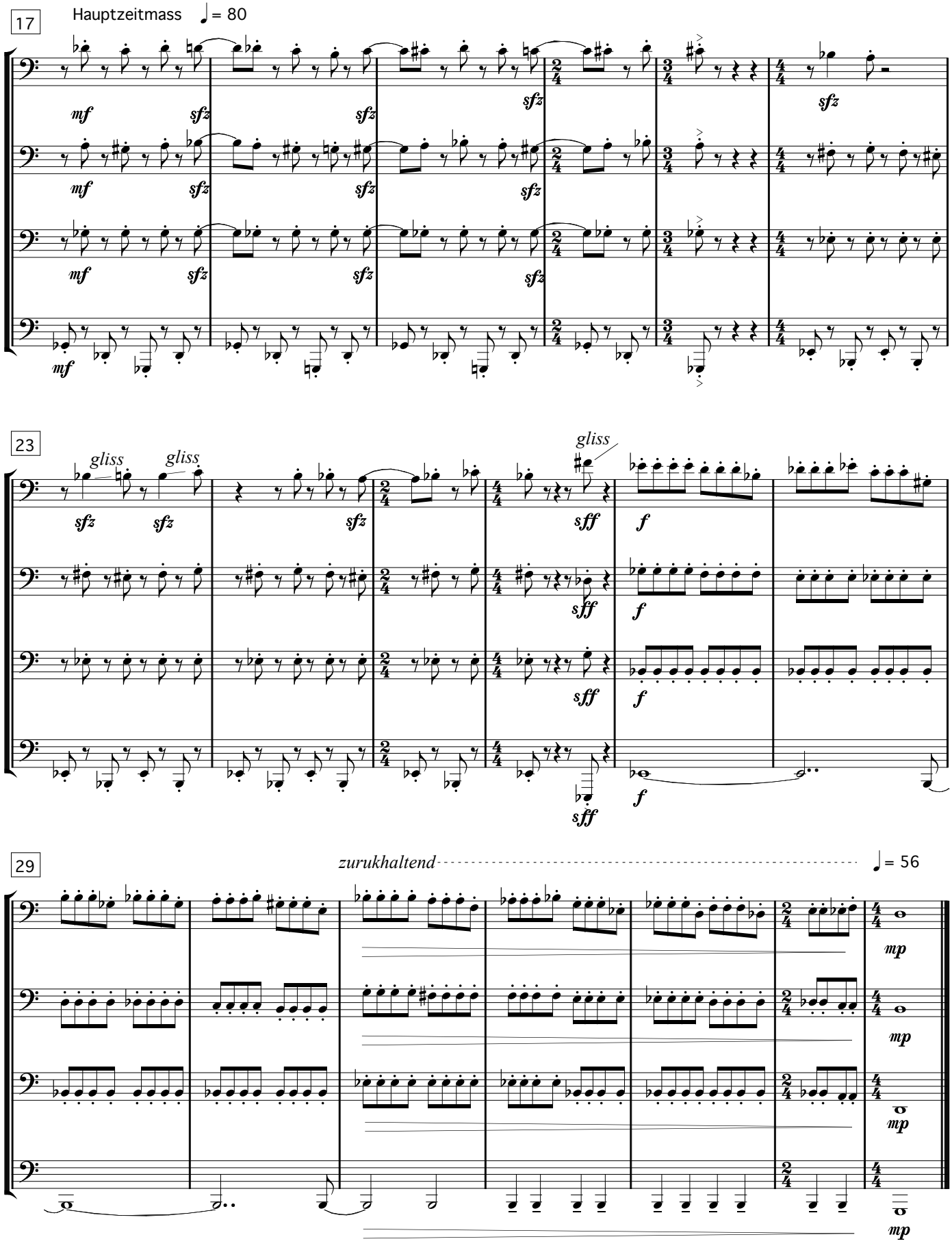
* Not necessary to perform rhythm as notated; follow the dictates of your musical neshama.


10
gliss
gliss
gliss
mp
sfz
mp
ff

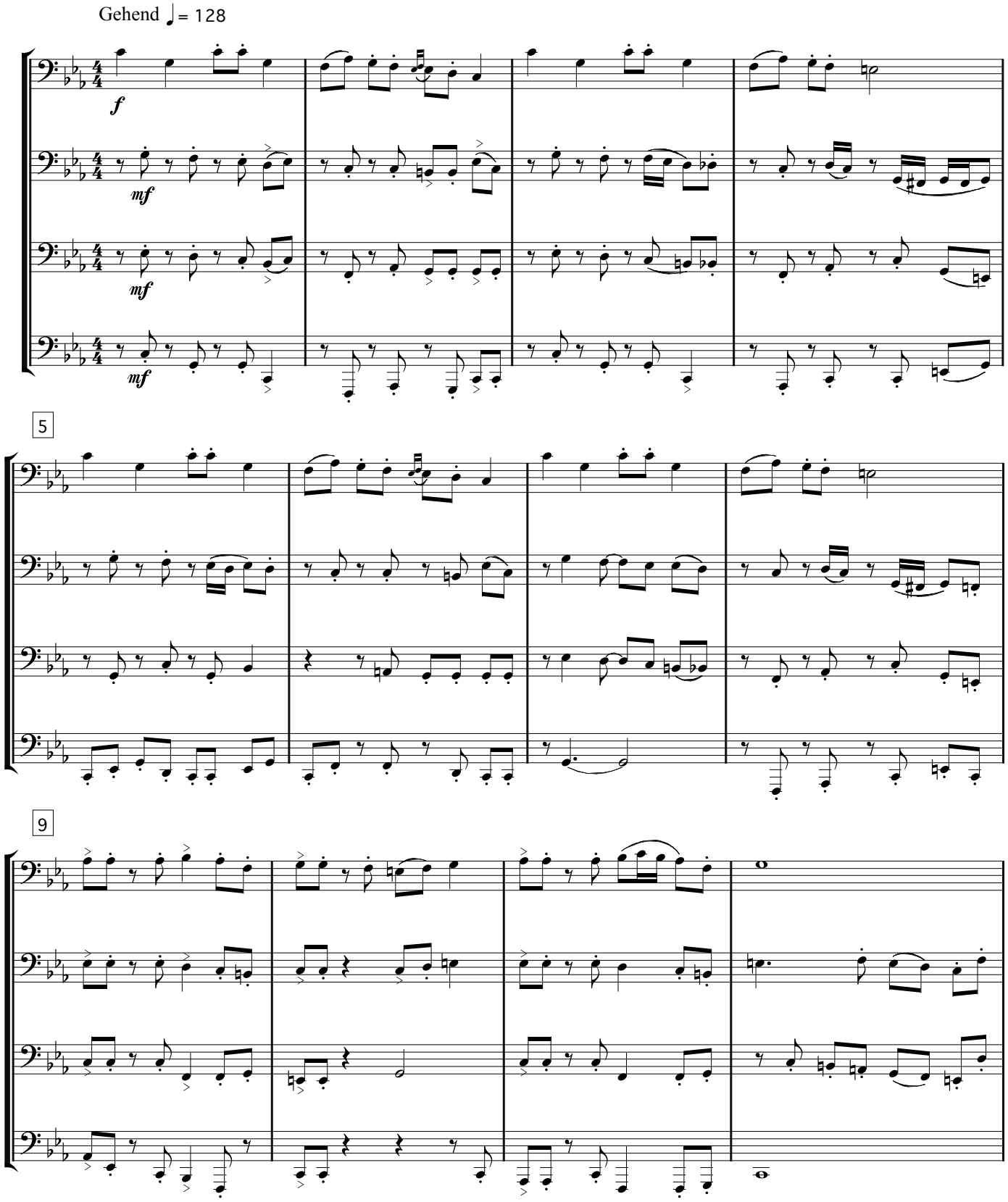

16
attacca
mf
p

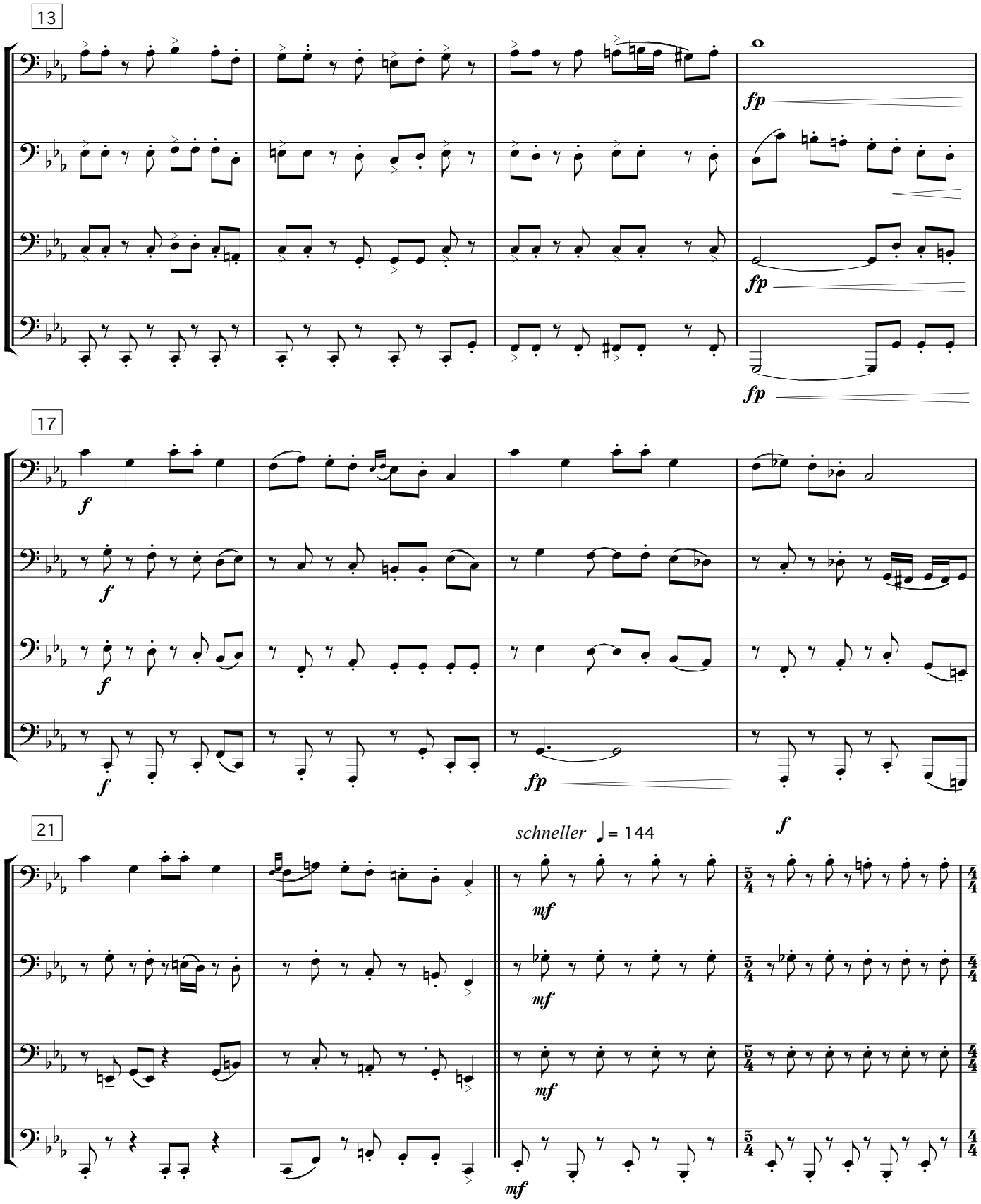
5. Khasene hobn zol er mit di malekh hamoves tokhter



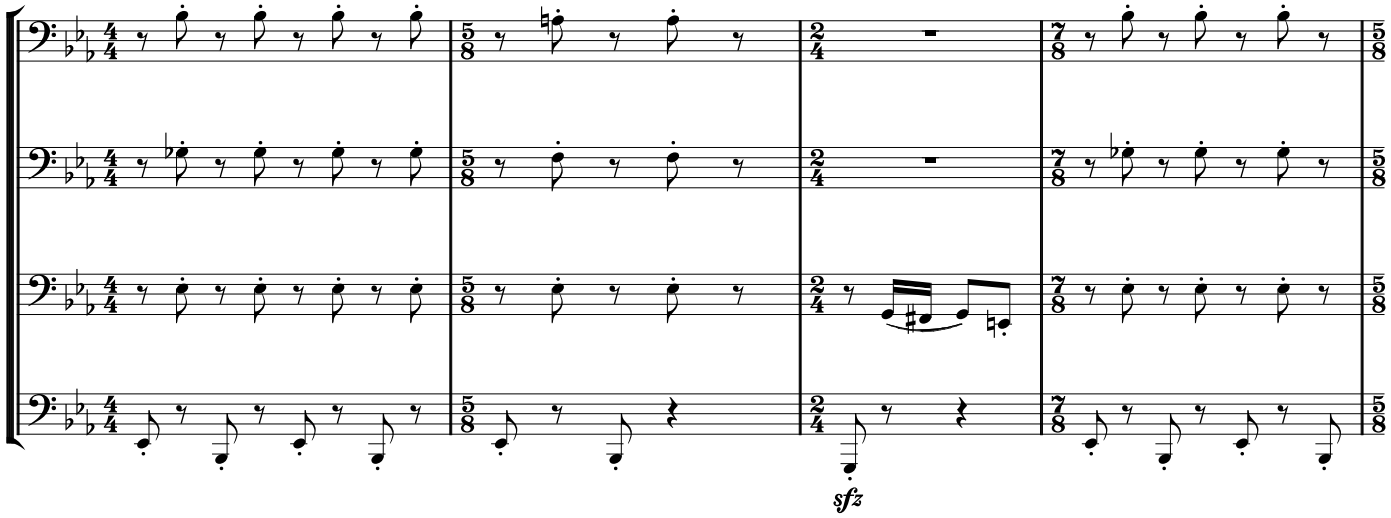

17
Hauptzeitmass ♩= 80
mf
sfz
23
gliss
sff
f
29
zurukhaltend
♩= 56
mp

6. Gai Kakhen Afeynam




13
fp
fp
fp
17
f
f
f
fp
f
21
schneller ♩= 144
mf
mf
mf
mf

25



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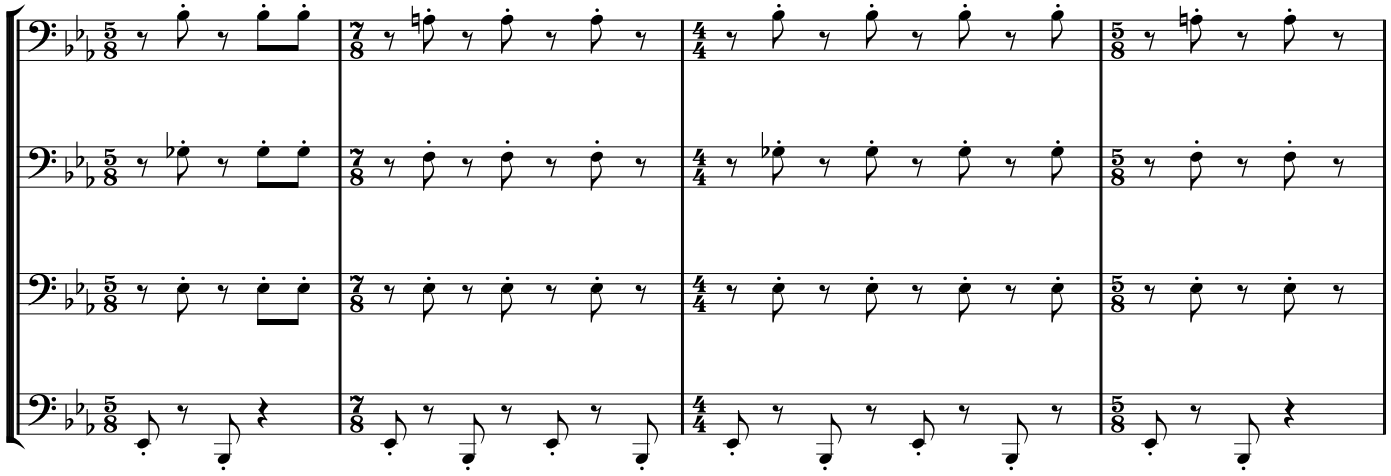

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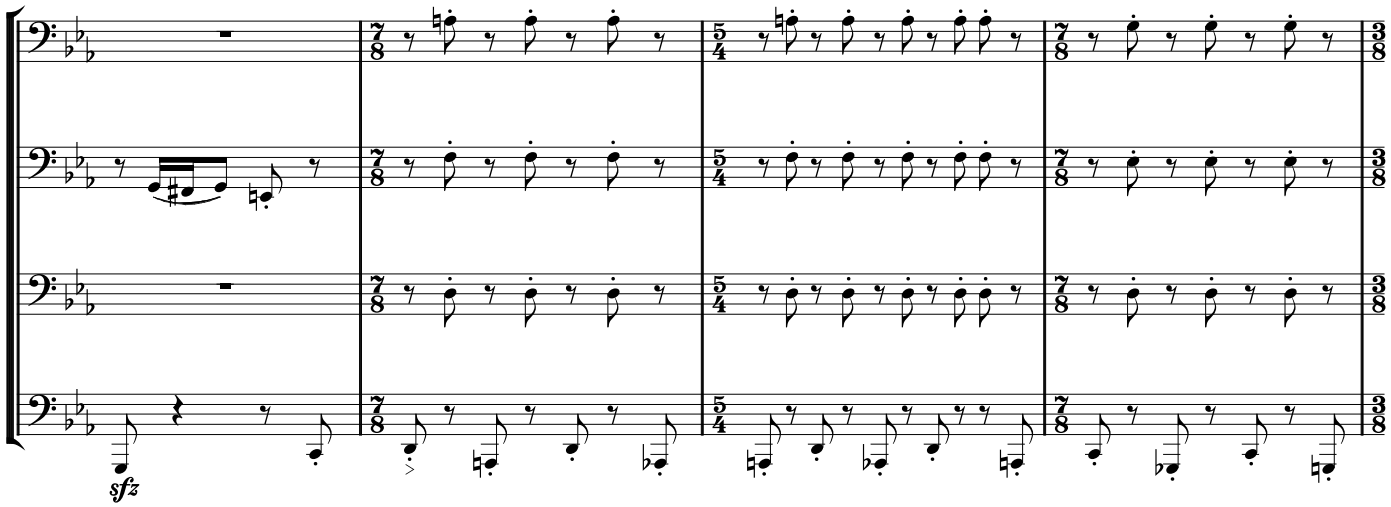
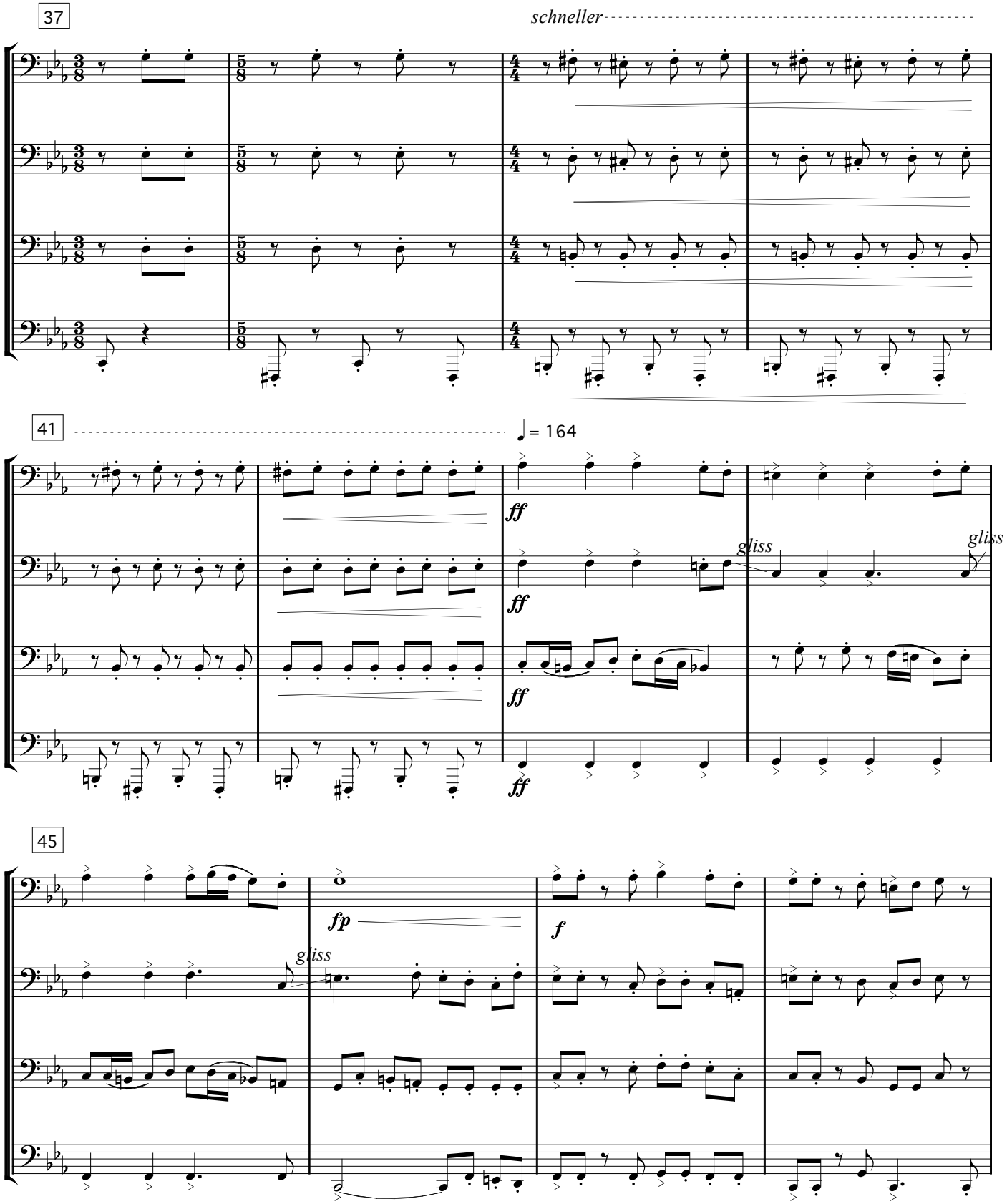
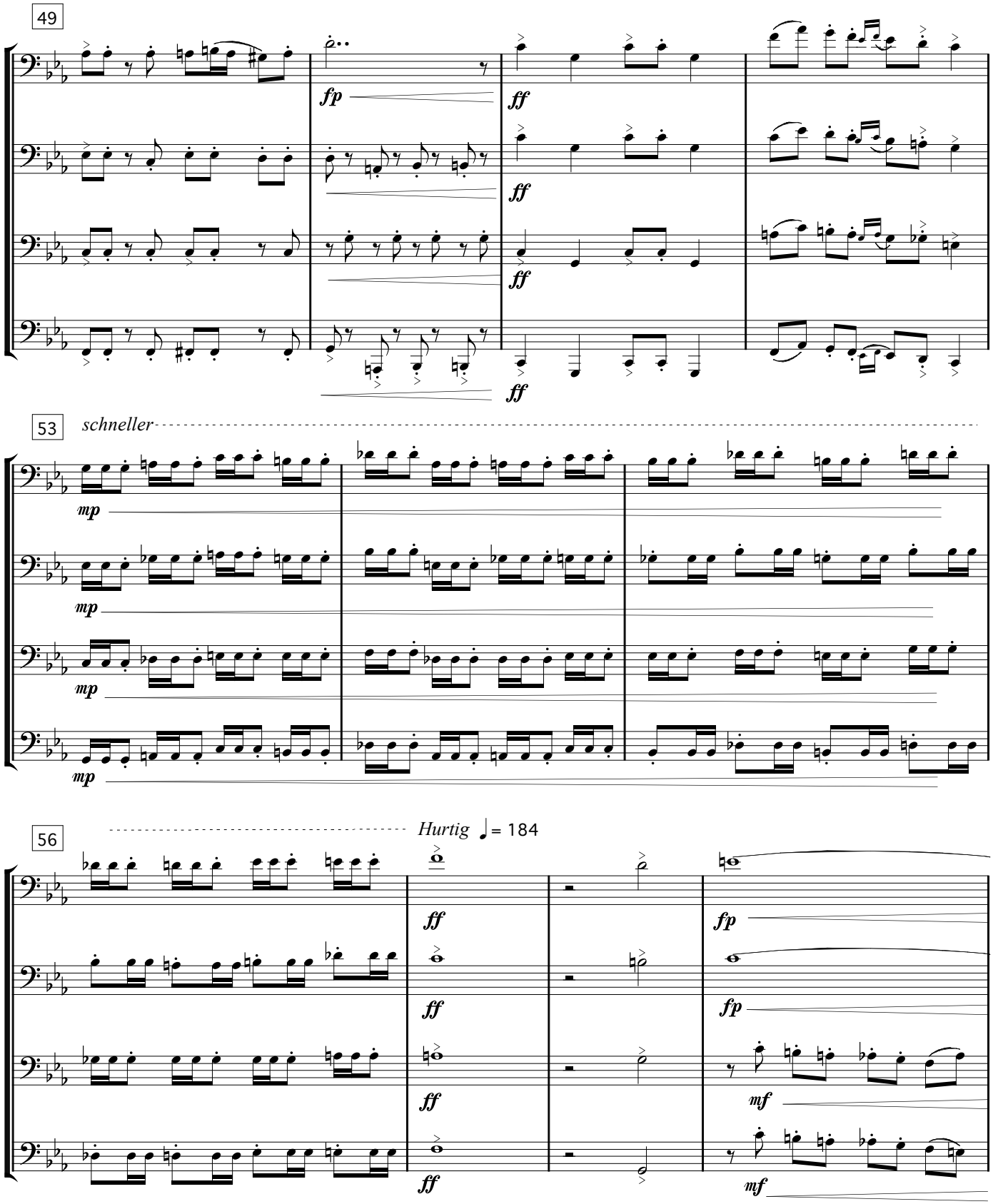
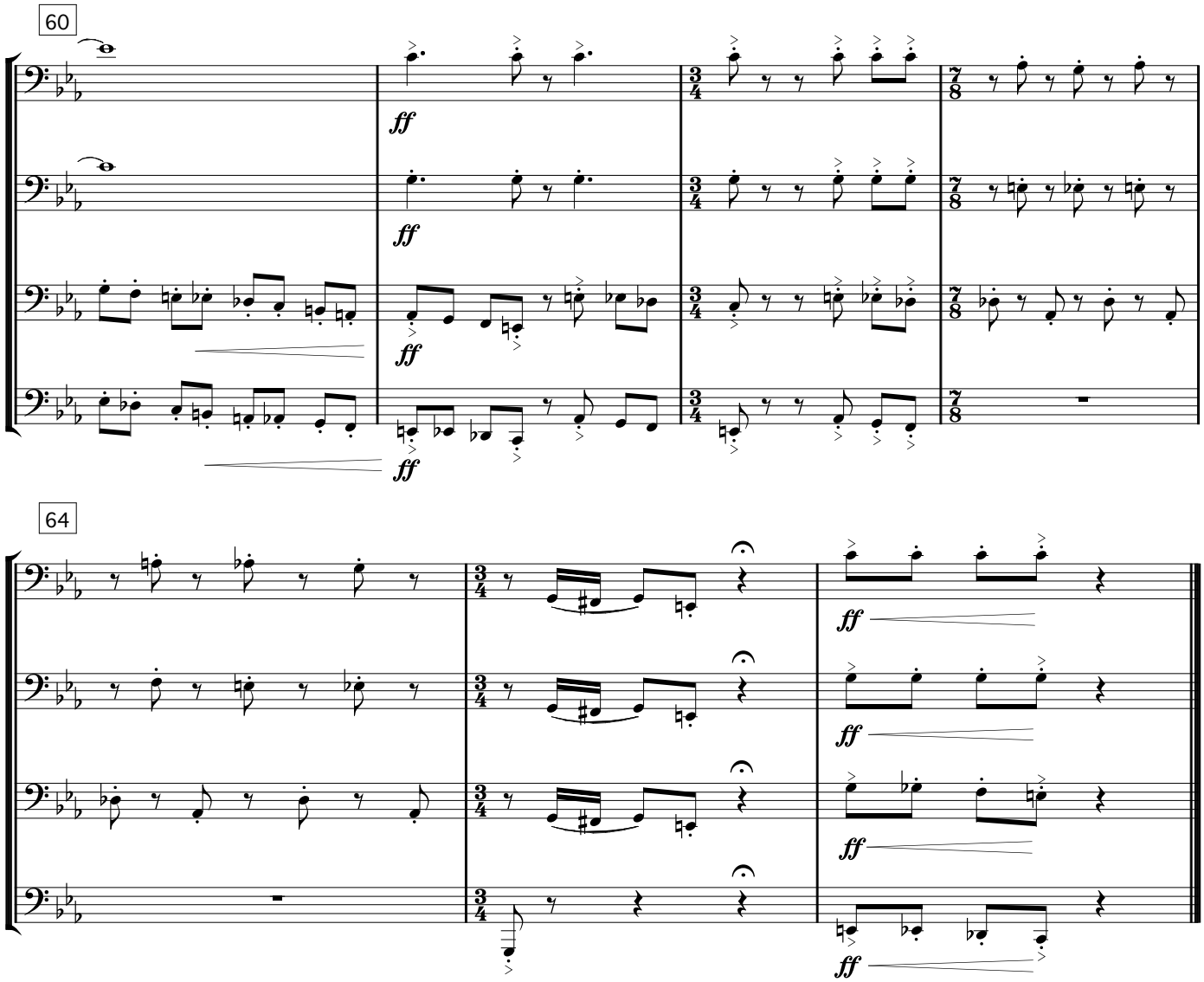



37
schneller
41
♩ = 164
ff
gliss
45
fp
f


49
fp
ff
ff
ff
ff
53
schneller
mp
mp
mp
mp
56
Hurtig ♩= 184
ff
ff
ff
ff
fp
fp
mf
mf


60
ff
ff
ff
ff
64
ff
ff
ff
ff